

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 23 and 31-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 21 and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. This Amendment should be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §41.33(a) and/or one of 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and 1.116. This Amendment is provided in order to present claims 1, 2, 4-19, 23 and 31-33 in better form for consideration on appeal.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal. More specifically, the above amendments are merely to reduce the number of issues for appeal, and do not raise any new issues. No new issues are raised by these amendments. This Amendment is being filed prior to the filing of the Appeal Brief. Entry is proper under at least one of 37 C.F.R. §1.111, 1.116 and/or 41.33(a).

Claims 21 and 22 are canceled to overcome the objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph set forth in the Office Action so as to reduce the number of issues for appeal. Applicant maintains all previous arguments. Applicant will be filing an Appeal Brief shortly.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. **09/841,007**

Docket No. **P-0220**

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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